

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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WINSTON, N. C.

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THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER,
Winston, N. C.

Winston, N. C., July 21, 1886.

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THE CROSS MARK.

The cross mark on your paper indicates that the time for which you subscribed has or is about to expire. It is to give notice so your subscription may be renewed. If the subscription be not renewed the name will be dropped from the list, but we want every one to renew and bring a friend along too.

See our offer to give THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER one year and the Patch Corn Sheller for four dollars. This is the best sheller for the money in America. It is guaranteed and will give entire satisfaction. Send in your orders at once.

The mercury at Fort Keogh, Montana, registered 120° in the shade last Thursday.

The meat sales of Armour, the Chicago meat king, average 4,000,000 pounds a month.

Mr. E. B. Douthit has been confirmed by the Senate as postmaster at Salem.

Fourteen members of the Missouri legislature are on the ragged edge. They are charged with perjury.

James H. Merrimon has been nominated for Judge in the 12th Judicial district in place of Judge Gudge.

The first bale of new crop Texas cotton was reported at Galveston on the 16th inst., one week ahead of last year.

Good gracious! Benjamin F. Butler is talking about running for Congress from the 8th Massachusetts district.

Col. Chas. R. Jones, editor of the Charlotte Observer, has announced himself a candidate for Congress in the 6th district.

The act of Congress reducing the fee on domestic money orders not exceeding \$5 from 8 to 5 cents, will go into effect on the 26th inst.

Mr. Ed Steele, of High Point, has been nominated by the President as register of the U. S. land office at Lewisville, Wyoming Territory.

The repeated droughts and the ravages of chinch bugs have so discouraged the farmers of Illinois that large colonies of them are moving to Oregon.

Gen. Gordon is ahead in the race for the governorship of Georgia. He has votes enough already to secure the nomination in the convention which meets on the 28th inst.

Seventeen railroads representing a total of 5,192 miles, a share capital of \$128,070,000, and a bonded debt of \$163,560,000 have been sold under foreclosure within the past six months.

While we of the South Atlantic States, are deluged with floods, the people of Ohio and Illinois and part of Texas are suffering even more from excessive drought.

Col. Junius B. Wheeler, a veteran of the Mexican war, and brother of John H. Wheeler, the historian of North Carolina, died at his home in Lenoir, on the 15th inst.

Mr. Morrison's bill to devote the surplus revenue of the government to the payment of the public debt, passed the House of Representatives on the 15th inst., by a vote of 207 to 67.

—Mr. Marshant, of London, has a big thing in it if it be true, as the London Truth reports, that he has invented an engine in which the steam is used over and over again, saving in fuel 80 per cent.

—The Senate has refused to confirm Hon. John Goode, nominated by the President U. S. Solicitor General. The alleged cause of rejection was that he was responsible for tissue ballots in an election in Virginia, about ten years ago.

—At an iron dealer's establishment in Petersburg, Va., last Friday, while a lot of iron was being unloaded, an old nine inch shell exploded, killing sixteen persons, among them four children, and wounded several others.

—Western Texas is suffering from a drought which has prevailed for over twelve months. Thousands of cattle have died. Ranchmen estimate the loss at over \$6,000,000, while over a considerable portion of the district the crops are an entire failure.

—C. D. Graham, a cooper of Buffalo, N. Y., constructed a barrel for that especial purpose, got into it and shot over Niagara Falls last Saturday. He is not the first man that ever attempted that fool-hardy feat, but he is the first one that ever came out alive.

—The people in the vicinity of Leaksville, N. C., will hold a Union Educational Picnic at Leaksville on the 11th of August. We are indebted to the committee, Messrs. J. Taylor, J. Price, Chas. Hamlin and J. H. Lane, for a kind invitation to be present, and we hope to enjoy that pleasure.

—Messrs. Louis Bagger & Co., solicitors of patents, Washington, write us that 28 patents bearing the date of July 13, 1886, were granted to Southern inventors, among them one to J. S. Rush, Turnpike, N. C., for well mechanism, and one to W. R. Self, of Newton, for a steam vehicle.

—Grass and clover rest the land. Grass and clover shade the land. Grass and clover prevent the land from washing. Grass and clover keep stock in good condition. Grass and clover furnish good manure. With good stock, well preserved lands and plenty of good manure, good crops and general prosperity must follow.

—"Tell the farmers, through your paper, that in drying out their tobacco not to use wood. A large proportion of the tobaccos are ruined by smoke. I have seen several lots sold to day for almost nothing, that would have brought a good price but for being ruined by wood-smoke." So said one of our dealers on last Thursday.

—About this time many Congressmen have "important business" at home. They are granted leave of absence to attend to this "important business," which is to look after their re-nomination. In the meantime, while attending to this "important business," they continue to draw their pay as if attending to their regular duties in Congress, all the same.

—President Cleveland has issued an order to the heads of the respective Departments of the Government warning Federal office holders from making themselves prominent figures in manipulating primary and nominating conventions. While they have all the rights of citizens he holds that they must not use their official positions to control conventions or stifle the will of the people.

—The Newbern Journal invites Thos. J. Jarvis to come back from Brazil and run for Governor again. As Mr. Jarvis is not troubled with a plethora of this world's goods he would hardly give up a \$12,500 position and a sort of a picnic time thrown in, to run for governor of North Carolina on a \$3,000 salary even when so many eastern friends beckon him home.

—Our trip to the Grange picnic at St. Johns, in Cabarrus county, on Saturday, was a most delightful one. The Grange at this place, if we mistake not, is the only live one in the State west of the Roanoke river. It has a splendid hall, well furnished and a commodious and comfortable school room, surrounded by beautiful grounds enclosed, where an annual fair is held. This is one of the best sections of the county, and the general character of the people and all the arrangements for the occasion evidenced the thrift and solid prosperity of the community. Vast damage to lands and crops, by the rain-floods, but with favorable seasons, the farmers are hopeful of fair crops.

A VERY STRANGE PROCEEDING.

We clip the following from the State Chronicle of the 15th inst:

"MIDDLEBURG, N. C., July 9, 1886. —I am a plain, uneducated farmer, and would like to see this question discussed by the intelligent farmers of the State. I do not profess to be able to answer the question, even to my satisfaction, but it does seem to me that the question justifies a discussion at least.

Quite a number of my neighbors and many farmers in Vance and Warren counties have for several years been using a home made fertilizer, made by formula of Dr. Courts, of Rockingham county, with entire satisfaction, and we prefer it to any of the manipulated brands on the market. By clubbing together and buying in carload lots direct from the manufacturers, the chemicals cost us from 20 to 25 dollars per ton. We have been buying from Baltimore firms. We had made our arrangements to get our supplies this spring, but about the time we were putting in our orders, were notified by the Agricultural Department that the dissolved bone, one of the main ingredients, was subject to the tax and any goods shipped by the Baltimore firms would be seized by the Department. This forced us to get supplies of such manipulated goods as we could find on the market which had paid tax.

Now, with all deference, I think we farmers should be allowed to purchase any chemicals we want from any where we choose, the opinion of the Attorney General to the contrary notwithstanding.

We have been using these goods purchased of the above named firms for years and prefer it to any brand of fertilizer sold in the State, pound for pound.

We were informed by the Department that we could get the chemicals we wanted from another firm in Baltimore, who had paid tax, but it was too late for us to make new arrangements, and besides we could not get them on the same terms.

I have been a friend to the Agricultural Department, and would not say discontinue it, but it does seem to me that some plan might be arranged by which this burden of tax might be lifted from the farmers' shoulders. If they have it to bear I do not think we get fifty thousand dollars worth of protection, and it seems to me that we might be permitted to buy from the first hands instead of being saddled with the commission of the middle men. Let us hear from you, gentlemen farmers, of North Carolina.

A VANCE CO. FARMER."

[The italics are ours.] Without any desire to place ourselves in antagonism to the Department of Agriculture, we would respectfully ask if it has not proceeded beyond the limits of its lawful jurisdiction if it has done as represented in this letter, which we take to be a true statement, as it appears in a respectable and responsible paper, published at Raleigh?

Where is the authority for such arbitrary action?

Where is the law which says that the farmer shall not buy a ton of ground bone, or plaster, or sand, if he choose, anywhere outside or inside of the State that he may elect? The law, as we understand it, requires fertilizer dealers doing business in the State to take out a license, but it does not prohibit the farmer from going out of the State and buying the ingredients of his fertilizers where he can buy them to the best advantage, nor does it force him to buy from some one endorsed by the Agricultural Department.

There is a law requiring dealers in horses, cattle and mules, to pay a license tax. Does this law prohibit a farmer of this State from going to Kentucky and buying a horse, a cow or a mule?

There is a law imposing a tax on drummers representing commercial houses. Does this law prohibit a merchant of this State from going to any of the trade centres and buying a stock of goods from a house which does not send out a drummer nor take out a license in this State?

Merchant tailors are required to take out license when soliciting business in this State. Would that law prohibit the Commissioner of Agriculture from ordering a suit of clothes from a Northern tailor if it was his desire and pleasure to do so?

The law upon which this arbitrary action of the Department of Agriculture is supposed to be based was intended to apply to and govern the seller, not the purchaser. It lays

down certain conditions which the dealer in fertilizers seeking to introduce his goods into this State must comply with, but does not undertake to dictate to the farmer of the State as to where he shall buy the fertilizers he uses, nor from whom.

The Department of Agriculture has no more right to say from whom he shall or shall not buy than it has to tell him how he shall thresh his wheat, which machine he shall use, or what he shall have for dinner. When it does so it simply waltzes outside of the prescribed circle, and had better waltz in again. If we are not mistaken the Department of Agriculture moved a little too precipitately in a similar case in Granville county not long ago, and went so far as to seize a carload of material for fertilizers, shipped from a Northern city to some farmers in Granville county. But these farmers knew what they were doing, did not propose to be sat down upon in that summary fashion, and expressed themselves in such vigorous, unequivocal English that the car was released, and further proceeding in the confiscating line suspended. If there was law for seizing the property of these Granville county farmers the Department of Agriculture would not have retraced its steps with such remarkable celerity; but there was as much law for that as there is for telling the Vance county farmers that they cannot buy ground bone where they please, nor from whom they please. The one was a case of arbitrary and unwarranted seizure, the second a case of arbitrary and unwarranted interference.

It appears from the letter that the opinion of the Attorney General was obtained by the Department. With all due deference to his legal ability, and with all due respect for the array of legal gentlemen to be found in the Department, (among whom is His Excellency the Governor, the President of the University, the Commissioner and the Secretary,) if the facts, as alleged in this letter, be true, then we do not hesitate to say that the "Vance county Farmer" has a clearer conception of the law than the whole of them.

The farmers of North Carolina have a perfect right to buy chemicals or fertilizers from whomsoever they please, provided they buy them for their own use, and any action to prevent it is not only totally unwarranted by the fertilizer law, but is subversive of their constitutional liberties. We would do the Department no injustice, and for its sake we would hope that there is some mistake about this matter, and if so, we will gladly publish the correction. But THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER will be faithful and true to the rights and interests of the farmers of the State, as it understands them.

WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR ASHES.

The great value of wood ashes as a fertilizer is not appreciated by a large majority of our farmers. As a rule they are thrown aside—deposited in some out-of-the-way place to leach and wash and waste throughout the year. Why not save them? It can be done easily and profitably. Now that the regular work in the crops will soon be over for a season, it will be a good time to arrange for it. Go to the woods and cut nice, straight poles—enough to build a pen six feet high, eight by ten feet square. Locate the pen at the point most convenient to your fireplaces. Haul trash and vegetable matter, and deposit it near the pen. Fill the pen about 18 inches to begin with. On this put a layer of ashes two inches thick. Alternate in this way, saving all the weeds and grass which may be gathered around the premises. Throw in all the refuse soap-suds. By giving only a half hour per week to this matter you will be pleased, if not surprised at the number of wagon loads of finely pulverized and valuable manure you can make in one year. Let the ash-pen be a fixed institution on your premises.

A PRESIDENT WITH OLD-FASHIONED IDEAS.

In an Executive Order issued by President Cleveland, on the 14th inst., to heads of Departments in the service of the Government he says: "Office holders are agents of the people—not their masters."

When a boy, long years ago, we remember that very many of the best men of that time entertained the same views.

SAVINGS BANKS.

There are but few savings banks in the Southern States—none in North Carolina. In the Northern and Western States there are many, the deposits in them amounting in the aggregate to many millions of dollars. They are increasing every year in number, and so also are the amounts of deposits annually increasing. They are, when well conducted, of incalculable benefit, because they not only afford the means of a safe deposit of the surplus earnings of the wage earners and others, but they foster habits of economy and thrift. The depositor receives interest on his deposits, and the bank lends that money to the public, the depositor and the public both being thus benefitted, thousands upon thousands of dollars which would otherwise be hoarded by money-saving people, rendering no service to any one, thus being kept in circulation to meet the demands of business. The New England people are remarkable for their thrift, enterprise, and their full appreciation of the value of a dollar, and their prosperity is due in a great measure to the number of savings banks they have established and the good use they make of them. They keep their money at home and keep it in circulation, and with it start and keep in operation the multifarious small industries which have given employment to thousands of people and added millions to the wealth of that section.

There is not a manufacturing town in North Carolina which could not and should not have one or more savings banks, and not one of these towns that would not be immensely benefitted thereby. In THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER of June 9th we published a brief article on the amount of money paid out by our tobacco manufacturers alone to operatives in the factories, which figures did not embrace money paid to superintendents, clerks, book-keepers, and others not directly employed in working tobacco. These figures footed up \$13,500 a week, or \$378,000 for the working season. How much more is paid out to operatives in other industrial establishments in Winston and Salem, to mechanics, laborers and others, we can't say, but the amount is very large. At present there is but little of these earnings saved, most if not all of it being spent as earned; but if there were savings banks started where the surplus that could be saved from the weekly earnings, might be deposited, many a dollar would be laid away that is now foolishly spent. A deposit of even one tenth of the gross earnings would aggregate a very large sum annually, which turned into the channels of business enterprise would add much to the prosperity and growth of this town.

This is a subject well worthy of the attention of our citizens who have capital and property to start such an institution, which would prove not only remunerative to them but of great benefit to the public.

OUR STATE EXPERIMENT FARM.

Our State Board of Agriculture has purchased land near the city of Raleigh on which suitable buildings are being erected and other necessary preparations are being made to fit it for an experiment farm. A practical superintendent has been employed. Such experiments and tests are to be made, as will demonstrate the values of different manures on different crops in different soils—the germinating power of seeds—the development of plant growth including horticulture, grape growing &c., &c.

A properly conducted farm operated in connection with the Experiment Station, may be of great value to the farming interest of the State. A public installation of the buildings and farm will take place on the ground, on the 22d inst., and will be celebrated with appropriate ceremonies.

—The Charlotte Democrat says that in Providence township, in Mecklenburg county, 362 dogs have been listed for taxation, and only 168 sheep. Some of the land owners having a thousand or twelve hundred acres of land have no dogs while many people living from hand to mouth, return two or three. When it comes to a tilt between the dog and the sheep, the dog is always ahead. If several millions of them were exterminated in this country, the country would be that much the better off.